

a consumer-driven, provider-friendly, patient-centered system.

I know my colleagues share these or similar priorities. I believe the steps I have proposed today will be to the benefit of patients. It will save money. It will save lives. Prescription drugs, I believe, are the most powerful tools in American medicine today. We really could not and should not do without them. But we have to use them and market them and promote them with care.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a truly distinguished American—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who announced her retirement earlier this morning.

The current group of nine Justices, including Justice O'Connor, represented the longest serving Supreme Court since the 1820s.

Today marks a great loss for America. But it is also a day to reflect on all that we have gained because of Justice O'Connor's service to our country.

For nearly 23 years, Justice O'Connor lent America her brilliant mind and her fair and impartial judgment.

Sandra Day O'Connor, who turned 75 this year, was born in El Paso, TX.

The daughter of Harry and Ada Mae, she was raised on her family's cattle ranch, in southeastern Arizona.

Sandra Day O'Connor began her academic journey at Stanford University.

Upon earning a bachelor's degree in economics and graduating magna cum laude, she stayed on at Stanford, pursuing an education in law.

And at Stanford she thrived. She earned a coveted position on the Law Review's Board of Editors and completed law school in only 2 years. Not only did she graduate in record time, but she finished third in her class.

Coincidentally, she finished with a man who would later become her colleague on the highest Court in the land—Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

It was during law school that Sandra Day O'Connor met her future husband, John Jay O'Connor.

Seeking her first job as a young, female attorney, Sandra Day O'Connor faced many challenges in a male-dominated law profession.

After having difficulty finding a job in the private sector, she began her legal career as Deputy County Attorney of San Mateo, CA.

When her husband was drafted into the JAG Corps in 1953, the young couple moved to Frankfurt, Germany, where she worked as a civilian attorney for the U.S. Army.

After 2 years in Europe, Sandra Day O'Connor returned to Maryvale, AZ, where she experienced difficulty finding employment in the legal world. As a result, she decided to start her own legal practice.

After practicing law for 2 years, Sandra Day O'Connor took a break from her career to start a family. She and her husband raised three sons—Scott, Brian, and Jay. I must say, as a father of three sons, this may be her greatest accomplishment—certainly, one of the most challenging.

In 1965, Sandra Day O'Connor transitioned from the private sector, to the public, when she became Arizona's Assistant Attorney General.

In this capacity, she served for 4 years before being appointed to fill an unexpired seat in the Arizona State Senate. Her constituents agreed it was a good match—as they elected her twice more.

In the Arizona Senate she rose to the highest level, becoming majority leader and the first woman ever to hold such an office in the United States.

As majority leader of this body, I understand the challenges and rewards of being leader and admire Justice O'Connor for her tremendous achievement.

In 1975, Sandra Day O'Connor was elected, judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court and served until 1979, when she was appointed to the appellate bench in Arizona.

There she served, until late President Ronald Reagan appointed her Associate Justice to the Supreme Court.

On September, 21, 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed her nomination to the Supreme Court. And that day, Sandra Day O'Connor made history. She became the first female Justice in the Court's history.

This 51-year-old Arizona-Court of Appeals judge shattered the 190-year-long tradition on the High Court of addressing Justices: "Mr. Justice."

When asked for her reaction to her nomination, Sandra Day O'Connor said:

I can only say that I will approach [my work on the bench] with care and effort and do the best job I possibly can do.

Most would agree that she has done just that.

Since 1981, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has served with distinction on the U.S. Supreme Court. She has served as an example to all Americans—demonstrating that through persistence and hard work anything is possible.

In the face of obstacles—including being a woman in a male-dominated law profession—she never surrendered her determination nor did she surrender her Southwestern pride and love of the outdoors when she moved to the city. Rather, she brought it with her.

Anyone who has entered the inner confines of Justice O'Connor's Supreme Court office is familiar with a sign that reads "Cowgirl Parking Only: All Others will be Towed."

Fiercely proud of her heritage, Justice O'Connor and her brother, H. Alan Day, authored a best selling memoir "entitled Lazy B: Growing up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest."

Having grown up in the South—in Nashville, TN—I appreciate Justice O'Connor's pride in her roots. She has not forgotten where she came from.

The values she learned through life on the range were values that left their brand mark. Indeed, hard work, self-reliance, and survival are the core values that make Sandra Day O'Connor the successful woman she is today.

As she writes in her memoir, working alongside cowboys on the Lazy B, she learned a system of values that was "simple and unsophisticated and the product of necessity."

Throughout her tenure on the Court, she has not wavered from her well-grounded views.

I've had the privilege of meeting Justice O'Connor on various occasions during my time in the United States Senate.

Each time that I've had the opportunity to interact with her, I've found her to be thoughtful, kind, and extraordinarily intelligent.

To echo the words of Ronald Reagan on the day he appointed Sandra Day O'Connor:

She is truly a "person for all seasons," possessing those unique qualities of temperament, fairness, intellectual capacity and devotion to the public good which have characterized the 101 "brethren" who have preceded her.

Today, more than 23 years later, President Reagan's words still ring true.

When she took the oath of office as the 102nd Associate Justice, she pledged to uphold the Constitution, and since this time, Justice O'Connor has proven her steadfast commitment to uphold the Constitution.

During her confirmation hearing, she emphasized that the court's role was to interpret the law and not to make public policy.

Her record demonstrates that she has lived up to that commitment, respecting the rule of law and judiciously interpreting the Constitution.

Often cited as the "swing vote" on many important cases, Sandra Day